REMARKS

Claims 12-20 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement in view of the following remarks.

Claims 12-20 have been subjected to a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 and §372 as follows:

Group I, claims 12-14, drawn to an siRNA molecule targeting TGFbeta type II receptor; and

Group II, claims 15-20, drawn to methods of treating various diseases associated with TGFbeta type II receptor via siRNA.

The Examiner suggests that the inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. The Examiner suggests that because the prior art (WO 03/070197) discloses siRNA targeting TGFbeta type II receptors encoding nucleic acids, Groups I and II lack a special technical feature.

The Examiner has required restriction between product and process claims and acknowledges that where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder. Applicants are required to elect one Group to be examined. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this restriction requirement.

In so far as Group I and Group II claims are drawn to product and process, Applicants respectfully submit that no additional burden would be placed upon the Examiner in searching

together the subject matter of Group I and Group II. In particular, it is submitted that a search of the claimed method is coextensive with the agent used in that method.

However, in an earnest effort to be completely responsive, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group I, claims 12-14, drawn to a siRNA molecule targeting TGFbeta type II receptor, with traverse.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: **July 23, 2008**

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